

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 05623 01 OF 04 170907Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EUR-12 EB-08

COME-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 /107 W

-----056077 170938Z /23

O R 170728Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3809

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 CANBERRA 5623

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, VN

SUBJ: US-SRV RELATIONS: PHAN HIEN PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 178099

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY SRV VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER PAHN HIEN IN CANBERRA ON JULY 14.

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. HAN HIEN: I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS. FIRST OF ALL MAY
I EXTEND TO YOU OUR THANKS FOR YOUR COMING HERE TO THIS PRESS
CONFERENCE.

AS YOU KNOW THIS IS THE FIRST GOVERNMENTAL VISIT OF VIETNAM

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 05623 01 OF 04 170907Z

TO AUSTRALIA TO DEVELOP THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN
VIETNAM AND AUSTRALIA.

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT THE FIRST DAY OF OUR VISIT HERE, I WAS
RECEIVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. FRASER, AND THE FOREIGN
MINISTER, MR. PEACOCK, IN A VERY WARM AND CORDIAL RECEPTION.
WE HAVE DISCUSSED MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL DIMENS-
IONS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND OTHER MATTERS OF

MUTUAL CONCERN.

THE TALKS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND EASINESS.

IN GENERAL WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN WHICH WE ARE WILLING TO FORGET THE PAST AND TO LIK INTO THE FUTURE FOR COMMON INTERESTS TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIP ON A LONG AND TURABLE BASIS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THAT'S THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE, AND THAT'S THE FUNDAMENTAL SPIRIT AS WELL. TODAY WE VISITED THE ACTING MINISTER FOR TRADE AND RESOURCES, THE SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND RESOURCES.

IT CAN BE SAID THAT OUR TALKS, OUR DISCUSSIONS, IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL, AND SUCCESSFUL.

ON THIS OCCASION WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR THANKS TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELL-ORGANIZED RECEPTION. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE THANKS THROUGH YOU TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO OUR JUST CAUSE.

AND WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR THANKS TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE AID AND ASSISTANCE TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY.

I THINK THAT A NEW PAGE OF THE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN OPENED UP -- FOR THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND VIETNAM.

THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY -- THANKS -- AND NOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE QUESTIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 05623 01 OF 04 170907Z

Q. HIS EXCELLENCY SAID THAT THE TALKS HE HAS BEEN HOLDING OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT:

A. WE HAVE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING OUR EXPLANATION ABOUT THE POSITION OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH EAST ASIA, TO ASEAN, TOWARDS THE ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIETNAM/AUSTRALIA AND WE SOUGHT TO REACH AGREEMENT THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED TO DEVELOP STRONGER TIES BETWEEN US. WE THINK THAT AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS US IN OUR POSITION, IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY, OR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND MULTILATERALY AND (...INAUDIBLE...) BASIS, IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SOUTH EAST ASIA, WITH ASEAN AND WITH THE ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY OF SOUTH EAST ASIA. THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE HAS PROVED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION. WE BOTH HAVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER AND THE TWO SIDES FEEL THAT WE HAVE MANY COMMON INTERESTS AND THE TALKS HAVE BEEN VERY COMFORTABLE AND SUCCESSFUL.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO YOU A REMARK WHICH YOU MADE IN TOKYO LAST WEEK IN REGARD TO RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS PARTICULAR ASIAN TOUR TO MAKE THOSE

RATHER HREAT CONCESSIONS ON THE QUESTION ON RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WAS IT TO DIVERT ATTENTION AWAY FROM YOUR CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH CHINA?

A. IN OUR VISIT TO JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IT IS OUR FIRST PURPOSE TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES. NATURALLY WE HAD TO EXPLAIN OUR FOREIGN POLICY TO THEM. THE RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND JAPAN AND THE NORMALIZATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND AMERICA HAS NOT BEEN A NEW ISSUE JUST NOW BUT IT IS PUT FORWARD. WE HAVE RAISED THESE MATTERS FOR A LONG TIME AND NOW WE EMPHASIZE THIS MATTER IN A NEW SITUATION, THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IS A CONCRETE SITUATION AND THE CONCRETE SITUATION IS INTERESTING. IT IS NOT OF COURSE OUR PROBLEMS WITH CHINA THAT WE RAISED THIS MATTER OR THAT MATTER. AS YOU HAVE OBSERVED, OUR DIPLOMACIES ARE ONE OF ACTIVITY AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CANBER 05623 01 OF 04 170907Z

OUR FOREIGN POLICIES ARE INITIATIVES TOO. DURING THE WAR OUR DIPLOMACIES WERE INITIATIVE AND NOW IT IS INITIATIVE TOO. AND NOW DURING THE PERIOD OF RECONSTRUCTION WE HAVE ALSO INITIATIVES IN DIPLOMACY.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 05623 02 OF 04 170916Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12
COME-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 /107 W
-----056134 170940Z /10

O R 170728Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3810
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 4 CANBERRA 5623

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

Q. SIR, CAN YOU DESCRIBE FOR US THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN YOUR COUNTRY AND CHINA?

A. ABOUT THE SITUATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CHINA NOW: IT IS

THE CHINESE WHO CREATE PROBLEMS NOT VIETNAM. THEY CREATE PROBLEMS FOR US, THAT IS THE FIRST POINT. SECONDLY, THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE ASSISTED THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES TO CREATE A BORDER WAR WITH VIETNAM. AFTER THAT THEY CREATED A PROBLEM FOR OUR PEOPLE, IN THE EXTORTION OF OUR PEOPLE IN ORDER TO CUT THE AID GIVEN TO VIETNAM. AND NOW THEY HAVE OTHER ACTS OF PROVOCATION, SUCH AS VIOLATION OF OUR AIR SPACE. WHY ARE THEY DOING THAT: JUST BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PREVENT US FROM BUILDING VIETNAM INTO A FIRST-CLASS COUNTRY. THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE AN INDEPENDENT, UNITED AND PROSPEROUS VIETNAM. THAT IS THE THIRD POINT. AND FROM THE VIETNAMESE PART, IT IS UNWISE TO CREATE ANY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 05623 02 OF 04 170916Z

PROBLEM. WE HAVE MANY, MANY DIFFERENCES IN OUR RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY. THEY HAVE MANY WORKS TO DO IN OUR RECONSTRUCTION. NOW THAT WE WANT PEACE AND STABILITY WHY SHOULD WE GO ABOUT CREATING PROBLEMS WITH OTHER PEOPLE. WE WANT TO HAVE PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR COUNTRY. THEY WHY DO WE WANT TO CREATE PROBLEMS WITH THE BORDER WITH CAMBODIA SO THAT WE HAVE TO FACE NEW DIFFERENCE WHICH AFFECT THE PRODUCTION IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN THOSE AREAS ALONG THE BORDER OF 1,100 KILOMETERS LONG, NOT TO SAY ABOUT THE COASTLINE AND THE SEA.

Q. HOW SERIOUSLY HAS THE WITHDRAWAL OF CHINESE TECHNOLOGICAL AND OTHER AID TO VIETNAM AFFECTED YOUR RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AND WILL YOU BE LOOKING TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO SUPPLY THAT TECHNOLOGICAL AID TO MAKE UP FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF CHINESE AID?

A. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A FEW WORKS TO OUR LAST STATEMENT BEFORE I ANSWER. IT IS UNWISE FOR US TO CREATE PROBLEMS WITH CHINA BECAUSE THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VERY FRIENDLY TOWARD US. WE HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE FRIENDLY TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND WE HAVE RECEIVED SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FROM THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THAT. SO IT WOULD BE UNWISE IF IT IS OURSELVES WHO CREATE THE PROBLEMS WITH OUR PEOPLE SO THAT WE HAD NEW DIFFERENCES. IN OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA IT IS ALWAYS OUR POSITION TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS -- TO SETTLE ANY DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS.

THE CUTTING OF CHINESE AID IS AFFECTING THE PRODUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY. OF COURSE FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS THOSE AIDS FROM CHINA WERE ONLY ON PAPER, NOT IN REALITY. THEY PROLONGED THOSE PROJECTS AND MANY PROJECTS APPEARED ON PAPER. A NUMBER OF PROJECTS ARE ONLY IN THE FIRST

STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION AND NOW THEY ARE ABANDONED. OF COURSE WE KNOW THAT AND NOW THAT THEY HAVE CUT AID IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US, AND THAT IS A LOSS.

THAT IS WHY WE ASK ASSISTANCE FROM ANY COUNTRIES, PROVIDED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 05623 02 OF 04 170916Z

THAT THEY ARE NOT ATTACHED WITH POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR OUR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND MUTUAL RESPECT AND MUTUAL BENEFIT.

1. SIR, DID THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT COVER THE QUESTION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES COMING HERE BY BOAT AND SECONDLY CAN YOU TELL US WHY SO MANY REFUGEES ARE FLEEING YOUR COUNTRY AND GOING TO AUSTRALIA AND TO OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THAT MATTER. THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE HAS UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE AUSTRALIAN POSITION AND WE BOTH UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. THEY ARE LEAVING BECAUSE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO USED TO LIVE THE EASY LIFE AND AFTER THE WAR THEY COULD NOT LIVE THE SAME WAY. THEY COULD NOT LIVE WITHOUT BLACK MARKETS, WITHOUT SPECULATION, HOARDING AND OTHER ILLEGAL WAYS OF LIFE. OUR STATE IS ONE WHICH PAYS ATTENTION TO THE LIFE OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE, SO WE CANNOT ACCEPT THOSE FORMER WAYS OF LIFE. THAT'S WHY THEY SEEK A NEW PARADISE IN RETURN FOR THEIR LOST PARADISE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SAID IN RESPONSE TO THAT VIEW?

A. AS I HAVE SAID WE EXPLAINED OUR POSITION AND THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE UNDERSTANDS IT.

Q. DOES THE END OF THE CHINESE AID STOP THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BLACK RIVER BRIDGE WHICH WAS A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT; AND, SECONDLY, VIETNAM HAS ALWAYS PURSUED A VERY INDEPENDENT POLICY WITH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION BUT YOU HAVE NOW JOINED COMECON -- DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU HAVE SHIFTED FROM AN INDEPENDENT POSITION TO A MORE ATTACHED POSITION?

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 05623 03 OF 04 170926Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EUR-12 EB-08
COME-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 /107 W
-----056170 170939Z /23

O R 170728Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3811
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 4 CANBERRA 5623

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

A. AS FOR THE TON LONG (?) BRIDGE, THAT'S THE LAST PROJECT THAT THEY HAVE CUT. BUT FOR LONG THEY HAVE DELAYED THE PROJECT. THEY HAVE ONLY DONE SOME CONCRETE BASE OF THE BRIDGE. THEY HAVE SAID THAT THEY LACKED STEEL AND SOME MATERIALS, THAT THEY HAVE DIFFICULTIES. NOW THAT THEY HAVE CUT THIS PROJECT WE WILL SEEK ASSISTANCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN IT WE'LL CONSIDER. IF NOT WE WILL BUILD IT OURSELVES. OF COURSE, OTHER COUNTRIES WILL OFFER US HELP FOR IT.

AS FOR THE QUESTION RELATING TO COMECOM: IT HAS BEEN FOR LONG THAT COMECOM COUNTRIES HAVE GIVEN US ASSISTANCE AND NOW IF THEY WANT TO GIVE US MORE ASSISTANCE WE WILL WELCOME THEM. IF VIETNAM JOINS ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IT MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR VIETNAM'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. THAT HAS BEEN A MATTER OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 05623 03 OF 04 170926Z

PRINCIPLE THAT WILL BE FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE, AND IT WILL NOT BE CHANGED.

Q. IS IT TRUE, MINISTER, THAT VIETNAM HAS SIGNED EXPLORATION CONTRACTS WITH A WEST GERMAN FIRM AND THE ITALIAN FIRM AGIP FOR OIL EXPLORATION?

A. IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE SIGNED A NUMBER OF CONTRACTS WITH THOSE FOREIGN COMPANIES, ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMPANIES.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE CONTRACTS ARE SERVICE AGREEMENTS ONLY AND DO NOT INVOLVE PRODUCTION?

A. IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE SIGNED ONLY SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENTS.

Q. I'M FOLLOWING THAT UP IF YOU DON'T MIND. IS THIS THE REASON WHY BHP REQUESTS FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN LEFT IN ABEYANCE?

A. BHP HAS APPROACHED US BUT WE HAVEN'T SIGNED ANY AGREEMENT THEM. IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN IT WE WILL CONSIDER.

Q. MINISTER, DOES VIETNAM CONSIDER THAT AUSTRALIA HAS ANY OBLIGATION TO MAKE REPARATIONS IN THE FORM OF AID OR IN SOME OTHER FORM FOR OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR? AND SECONDLY, HAVE YOU DISCUSSED AID AND HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY OFFERS FROM AUSTRALIA TO INCREASE OUR AID PROGRAM?

A. WE HAVE HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA FOR LONG AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED US AID. WE NEVER ASKED FOR REPARATION AT ANY TIME. THE PAST IS THE PAST AND NOW WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE AND HOPE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WILL GIVE US MORE ASSISTANCE AND AID, THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE US AID.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 05623 03 OF 04 170926Z

Q. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT ON THE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT VIETNAM HAS GRANTED MILITARY FACILITIES TO THE SOVIET UNION?

A. IF THAT HAPPENS THEN OTHER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE SATELLITE SYSTEMS WOULD KNOW THAT. IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO SAID THAT IT WAS NOT TRUE. DURING THE WAR, WE FOUGHT THE UNITED STATES, A POWERFUL COUNTRY, BUT THEN WE DIDN'T NEED ANY FOREIGN BASES ON OUR SOIL. NOW WE'RE INDEPENDENT AND REUNIFIED, WE HAVE THE MEANS OF OUR OWN. WE HAVE A GOOD ARMY AND HAVE CAPTURED A LOT OF WEAPONS.

Q. SIR, WHEN YOU SPOKE TO MR. FRASER AND MR. PEACOCK, WERE YOU AWARE THAT AT THE TIME WHEN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS WERE SHOOTING YOUR SOLDIERS AND VICE VERSA MR. FRASER WAS DEFENSE MINISTER AND MR. PEACOCK WAS ARMY MINISTER. WERE YOU AWARE OF THAT?

A. DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. FRASER AND MR. PEACOCK WE HAVE SAID THAT THE PAST IS THE PAST.

Q. ON THAT SUBJECT, DID MR. FRASER AND MR. PEACOCK EXPLAIN TO YOU WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH THEY WERE PART THOUGHT THAT THEY SHOULD TRY TO STOP WHAT YOU DESCRIBED AS YOUR JUST CAUSE AND YOUR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE?

A. WE DISCUSSED THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

Q. HAVE YOU MET, OR DO YOU HOPE TO MEET, OR HAVE YOU ASKED

TO MEET, ANYONE FROM THE LABOR PARTY, THE PARTY WHICH
OPPOSED AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT AGAINST YOUR SIDE IN THE
VIETNAM WAR?

A. WHEN MR. WHITLAM VISITED HANOI THE AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR INVITED ME TO DINNER AND I HAD TALKS WITH MR.
WHITLAM THERE.

Q. YOU HAVE NOT SOUGHT TO SEE MR. HAYDEN NOW?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CANBER 05623 03 OF 04 170926Z

A. THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN LOOKED AFTER BY FOREIGN
AFFAIRS PEOPLE SO IT'S NOT INCLUDED. AS YOU KNOW WE
ARE LEAVING CANBERRA TOMORROW.

Q. WOULD YOU HAVE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN MR. HAYDEN
IF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HAD INCLUDED HIM IN THE
PROGRAM?

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 05623 04 OF 04 170930Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EUR-12 EB-08
COME-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 /107 W
-----056190 170937Z /23

O R 170728Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3812
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 4 OF 4 CANBERRA 5623

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

A. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF OUR VISIT IS TO MEET THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS MATTERS, TO DEVELOP THE GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON A STATE-TO-STATE BASIS.

Q. SIR, COULD YOU ELABORATE ON THIS NEW OBVIOUSLY LARGER ZONE OF PEACE AND INDEPENDENCE OF WHICH VIETNAM HAS SUGGESTED TO THE ASEAN COUNTRIES? AND HOW VIETNAM WOULD RECONCILE ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMECOM AND IN THIS NEW ZONE?

A. THE COMMON ASPIRATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA IS TO HAVE A ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY AND STABILITY SO THAT THE INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES CAN DEVELOP AND BE PROSPEROUS. WE PROPOSE A ZONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY, AS ASEAN COUNTRIES ALSO PROPOSE A SIMILAR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 05623 04 OF 04 170930Z

ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY. TO SAY THAT IF WE HAVE A COMMON DESIRE THEN WE CAN ACHIEVE AND SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF WORDS. IF WE HAVE COMMON ASPIRATIONS AND HAVE COMMON OBJECTIVES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA THEN WE COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF LABELS AND WORDS. THE DIFFERENCES IN WORDS COULD BE SOLVED IN A PROPER MANNER AND MUTUAL CONCESSION.

Q. GIVEN AMERICA'S PROBLEMS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND YOUR REMARKS IN TOKYO THE OTHER DAY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE AMERICANS CAN TAKE UP AND PURSUE THE OPENING THAT YOU GAVE IN YOUR REMARKS IN TOKYO TO GET NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAME AND AMERICA?

A. AFTER MY VISIT TO TOKYO WHERE WE MADE THE STATEMENT I WENT STRAIGHT TO SINGAPORE AND THEN ARRIVED HERE. I DON'T KNOW YET WHAT IS THE THINKING OF THE AMERICANS, BUT BEFORE THAT, WHEN I MET THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THEN HE HAD A TALK WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THERE AND THE AMERICAN REACTION WAS PRETTY POSITIVE. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ALSO MENTIONED THIS. WE HOPE THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD RESPOND TO US AND WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET THE AMERICANS ANYWHERE, ANY PLACE, AT ANY TIME. WE ARE PREPARED TO RESUME THE TALKS WITH THE AMERICANS AT ANY TIME AND IN ANY PLACE.

Q. LAST YEAR SOME AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS WERE ABLE TO VISIT VIETNAM, IN THE DISGUISE OF TOURISTS IF YOU LIKE. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES IN THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS BEING ABLE TO VISIT VIETNAM IN A PROPER JOURNALISTIC WAY?

A. WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA IN VARIOUS AREAS -- ON ECONOMY, CULTURE AND THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS. THE VISITS OF AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS WOULD BE

CONSIDERED.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 05623 04 OF 04 170930Z

END TEXT.
ALSTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER05623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780292-0834
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780754/aaaabtdi.tel
Line Count: 504
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0f87f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 178099
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1990677
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SRV RELATIONS: PHAN HIEN PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, SOPN, VN, VM, US, (PAHN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0f87f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014